

Bishop Tube Timeline

8/1/1980 – EPA site discovery as reported in **SEMS (what is SEMS?)**

- SEMS stands for Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS). SEMS is the Superfund's program's accomplishment planning and tracking data management system. It is the Superfund program's primary data source to answer questions from the public, Superfund stakeholders, Congress, federal and state Agencies, and EPA national program managers on the status of Superfund program accomplishments.

11/1/1983 – EPA's Preliminary Assessment (**Can I see a copy of this or better yet, a copy of the removal assessment that occurred you mention below?**)

- Yes, these assessments can be provided.

6/25/1985 – EPA's Site Inspection – Higher Priority for further assessment (**Is there a record of this? What does *higher priority* mean above when it seems it took 10 years to get back to it. I guess I am asking if the "higher priority" means something different in this context? I recall that even under President Regan in 85, there was an increase in Hazardous site clean up funding, so would like to see any documentation for this assessment.**)

- The High/Low Priority qualifiers are attached to site actions based on the region's review of available information. Based on the findings in the Site Inspection, a high priority qualifier was attached to this site. There is no standard national definition for higher priority or lower priority. In general, sites with a higher priority remedial assessment decision are expected to need further remedial assessment attention sooner than sites with a lower priority decision.

1/13/1995 – EPA's Removal Assessment

8/1995 - Draft Hazard Ranking System (HRS) package was created a site score of 50.21 (**Is there a rubric with specific criteria for scoring? Where is 50.21 on that rubric?**)

- A site may be included on the National Priorities List (NPL) if it scores sufficiently high on the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). The HRS serves as a screening device to evaluate the relative threat that uncontrolled hazardous substances pose to human health or the environment. As a matter of agency policy, those sites that score 28.5 or greater on the HRS are eligible for the NPL.

3/14/1996 - The draft HRS package was not formally reviewed and finalized since the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania no longer supported listing the site on the NPL (Does this mean that DEP decided that Bishop Tube should NOT be a priority for EPA and/or should be their responsibility?)

- The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania did not support listing the site on the NPL and decided to place an Other Cleanup Activity (OCA) qualifier on the site. This OCA status makes the State the lead on the site & cleanup.

11/30/1999 – Other Cleanup Activity – EPA recognized PADEP as primary regulatory oversight (this is one of my main questions: who decides which agency is primary and how do they determine this?)

- This OCA activity is used to document the referral of a non-NPL site to a state, tribal, or federal environmental cleanup program for remedial-type work without EPA enforcement or oversight. Remedial-type work can include comprehensive site investigations in support of making cleanup determinations, interim cleanup actions, removals or final cleanup decisions, including decisions that cleanup is not required. For this definition, 'without EPA enforcement or oversight' means that there is no continuous and substantive involvement on the part of EPA while remedial-type work is ongoing, such as routinely reviewing work products and other documents and providing comments to the non-EPA party. However, EPA may gather information about activities at an OCA site through meetings or calls with the non-EPA party, by accessing related web sites, or through other means. OCA status should only be used for sites that have completed a PA within the Superfund site assessment process and are considered to be NPL-caliber (i.e., existing information indicates that the site may achieve an HRS score > 28.5) and the site warrants remedial type work as described above.

3/17/2005 – A Consent Order and Agreement went into effect between PADEP and Constitution Drive Partners (Developer). 1st amendment to the order was on 1/22/2007 and 2nd amendment to the order was 6/4/2010

Currently - Site is in SEMS as an active OCA with PADEP being the lead agency on the site & cleanup. Part of SAM's workshare sites. PADEP very active on the site and is in the process finding the extent of the plume downgradient. PADEP suggests to keep the site status in SEMS as OCA (Other Cleanup Activity) in case they want to pursue NPL route in the future. (How does this allow DEP to pursue NPL in the future? I also am curious to understand how this site has escaped ALL remediation since 1980. I have seen no evidence that anything has been done by either EPA or DEP to prevent the contaminants from impacting neighbors or the exceptional value water source nearby.

- EPA performs a monitoring role at OCA sites by annually/biannually checking in with state, tribal, municipal and other federal agency partners on the status of cleanup work at these sites. Should conditions change such that federal Superfund involvement becomes necessary, EPA will work with these partners to determine an alternative approach for addressing a site. The OCA designation is tracked in the Non-NPL Status column in SEMS. Sites with these designations must also have an OCA activity added to their project schedule in SEMS. The schedule activity enables EPA to track the start and finish of OCA work as well as progress made while OCA work is underway.